

TMP-024

Interviewee: George Larrimore

Interviewer: Jessica Taylor

Date: July 29, 2013

T: This is Jessica Taylor interviewing George Larrimore on July 29, 2013 at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Larrimore, can you please state your full name?

L: Certainly. It's George S. Larrimore, Sr.

T: Okay. What is your date of birth?

L: Eight, five, [19]39. I have a birthday coming up very soon.

T: That's exciting. Where were you born?

L: Right here in Gloucester County.

T: Okay. And what were your parents' names and occupations?

L: My father's name was Snowden, S-N-O-W-D-E-N Larrimore. And my mother's name is Ida Bell Brown Larrimore.

T: Okay, and what were their occupations?

L: Well, my father was a farmer working here in the county, and my mother, she was more of a housewife doing housework.

T: Okay. What part of the county did y'all live in?

L: Right in the Ware District, not too far from here.

T: Okay. Did you have any siblings?

L: Yes, I do.

T: How many?

L: I have three boys and two girls.

T: Okay. And I know you've led many lives, but what is, was your occupation? Can you just walk us through your career?

L: Well, I, not retired from the military, but I served in the military and honorably discharged in 1960. I moved to Brooklyn, New York, and worked as a plate operator for a printing company. I returned to Gloucester in 1966, and I worked for Dow Chemical in Williamsburg for six years. Then, my employment moved back to Gloucester and I joined the sheriff's office in 1971. I served with the sheriff; I was there for over twenty-five years then retired in 2000.

T: Okay. And now you do what?

L: I am self-employed as a professional car washer, trade man, on the spot carwash.

T: Great. And where do you live in Gloucester right now, what part?

L: I still live in the Ware District up on Indian Road. Come off of 14 and make a left and go right on to Indian Road.

T: Okay. What is your earliest memory of Main Street in Gloucester Courthouse?

L: Well, if I can think back that far, you know, it was completely rural. There were a couple of businesses here on Main Street. I certainly remember the Texaco Station, Grey's Pharmacy, Morgan's Drugstore, Gloucester Bank, and Leigh's Market, which was still on Main Street, Southern States. Those were the basic places here on Main Street.

T: Did your family come often to Main Street?

L: I mean, certainly, because that was a local grocery store which we called A and P. And we all did all the shopping there.

T: Mm-hm. Did you ever go to Morgan's or Grey's?

L: What was the question?

T: Did you ever go to Morgan's Drugstore-

L: Oh, certainly, oh, yes, yes.

T: Which one did you go to?

L: The one that was across--adjacent from Grey's Pharmacy, which was also right there beside Gloucester Bank. I know vaguely that we used to go there; however, we didn't--I wouldn't say a fast-food chain, but they sold sandwiches and stuff. Well, we bought ours on the outside, and the other folks go on the inside. The African-Americans, they would bring to the window and you got whatever sandwiches you wanted. But, we didn't look at it negatively. We looked at it positive, that we had somewhere to go. So, it was okay.

T: What were those interactions like between black customers and white business owners?

L: Well, believe it or not, we didn't see any discrepancies, because it was **our own thing**. [Laughter] I never heard of any bickering or fighting or anything like that. I guess we knew what our place was and they knew where their place was at. We just socialized together without any problems that I was aware of.

T: So, as a child you had white friends?

L: No.

T: No. No. What other businesses on Main Street did you go to?

L: Well, there was a clothing store called Men's Shop. Mr. George Sinclair Rhodes was the one with that. We would take our clothes there for cleaning. We also bought clothing there or so, but other than that, it was just a matter of the local businesses. We looked every year for--there was a carnival that used to be right in the area back over here behind the Laundromat. That carnival was a growing thing. Everybody attended that, black, white, everybody. We looked forward to that event every year. But other than right here, going around the corner there was nothing but woods. Other than that, I'm trying to think of any other businesses that was on Main Street. Booker's store, which was the furniture store up here, I think we bought furniture from there. There was also another store up on the corner called Five and Dime. We all know that the courthouse was there where it is right now, the old courthouse. I never got a traffic ticket, so I never went, but I know where they put it. [Laughter]

T: Did you ever go to the movies?

L: Yes, I did! [Laughter] It was right there, right behind the bowling alley. Before the bowling alley, there was a store called Colonial Store. I do remember going to the movies where the black was upstairs and the white was downstairs. Yeah. I remember that very, very well. With us being upstairs, we could always intimidate the ones downstairs. You could throw popcorn. [Laughter] But there was never any problems that I was aware of. But that was just part of the system, I guess.

T: Yeah. I'm actually surprised that things like the carnival weren't segregated, like this white to ride kind of thing. You never experienced anything like that. No? Wow.

Interesting. What about on holidays that would bring people to Main Street like Christmas, where they put out the Christmas trees or Halloween trick-or-treating? Did you ever experience any of those events with other people around here?

L: I think every year they would have a Christmas parade. I think everybody participated in that. I don't know of anything other than that during that time. I don't know who sponsored it. I don't know whether it was Parks and Recreation during that time or not that really got us motivated as far as having that parade. It was interesting. [Laughter]

T: All right. So what about in your neighborhood as a child? What were special times like Christmastime like at your school or with your family?

L: Christmastime was always special. I know we used to go in the woods and cut down our Christmas tree. It was always a cedar tree, just out of the woods, very little shape. It was up and that's it. We used to go in the woods and get running cedar and also a little plant they call crowfoot. It's a little tiny cedar that grows in the woods wild, and we used to always get that to decorate. That's something that the kids today don't even know anything about. Bring it home, mother and grandmother, father, they decorated with the Christmas balls and stuff. But it was a special event. Also, during the time was hog-killing time. We always had fresh pork. [Laughter] The family came together and had Christmas. We used to always have what they call the stockings, but we had socks that we hung up on the side of the wall. Christmas Day, they'd be full with oranges and apples and stuff like that. You look back at the old days and think about today, just completely opposite.

T: It's true. Sorry to focus on the most lame part of Christmas, but where did your parents get gifts for you?

L: Mostly clothes, very few toys. But they probably couldn't afford the toys. We got clothes and socks and pants and shirts and underclothes. I'm trying to think of what gifts that we may have gotten. Whatever it was, it was very small.

T: Yeah. Where would they have gotten it from?

L: Probably from up here at the Five and Dime store.

T: Okay.

L: Yeah.

T: Did they ever take shopping trips to Richmond or Newport News or anything like that?

L: No. Mm-mm.

T: No? Interesting. Did you ever leave the county for recreational purposes as a child?

L: No.

T: No.

L: No. We did our own stuff. [Laughter]

T: Yeah. So you never left the county?

L: During that time? Not until I got in high school. Then, being in school and playing sports and stuff--

T: You played sports?

L: Oh, yeah.

T: What'd you play?

L: All of it.

T: All of it. All of the sports. [Laughter]

L: T.C. Walker High School started their first football team in [19]57, and I was a member of that team. That year, we won one game. We played Bruton Heights J.V., and one of our players caught a trick ball and he didn't know whether to go through the pole or around the pole. [Laughter] We won that game and that's the only game we won that year. That's the first football team.

T: Describe the formation of the football team. What did it take to put it all together?

L: Oh, I don't know. Like I said, we had a coach. He didn't know very much about football either. We had all hand-me-down uniforms from Gloucester High School. I don't know where they got them from, but they were hand-me-downs. We looked like foreigners. [Laughter] I had as long legs as anybody, but my knee pad was up here and my knee is down here. We had helmets that didn't have no faceguards. We had shoulder pads, but other than that we was vulnerable. We enjoyed it, and like I said, that was the first football team. I played basketball and ran track and played baseball. Yeah.

T: So when you played football or basketball, did you play against other black schools, or did you--

L: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Basically, yeah, all of them.

T: Okay.

L: Cause T.C. Walker School that's down here now, they had from eighth grade through twelfth grade, and that was all in one school.

T: Can you describe a little bit about what high school was like for you? Were you the popular kid?

L: Oh, certainly! Six-foot-four? I should've brought some pictures. [Laughter] Six-foot-four and playing sports and the girls were loving it. I didn't know; I always thought I was just another kid. It was years later this young lady, she said, George—coming up during a high school reunion—I really loved you. I said, now you're telling me. It's too late! [Laughter] Growing up and then through high school and coming from a large family, I saw my siblings come up the same way. In fact, my oldest son, Vernon, he played basketball and he was player of the year in the state. He went off to college, but he still was a young kid. He finished, but he was a wild one. [Laughter] But all of my kids, they all finished high school and some went to college. My one son, he tried to follow in my footsteps; he's here in the sheriff's office. He's been there for eighteen years. My youngest son, he retired from the Navy, twenty years. Now he's self-employed. It's a blessing to know--I look back and saw my kids succeeding and self-supporting. The only time they call me and say, Daddy, I need something! [Laughter] But other than that...my present wife, she's retired from the Newport News Sheriff's Office. We're both living in retirement. I enjoy camping. I go every chance I get to a campsite and just relax for a while.

T: Great. That's great.

L: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

T: Yeah, so going back to high school for you, did you or your parents have a car in high school?

L: Yes, my daddy had a [19]49 Ford. We all used to pile in that and go from neighborhood to neighborhood, nothing out of the county, just visiting families. And he also had a pickup truck that we all used to get in back of that and go from place to place. Like I said, my mom, she used to do day work for different families, and he used to pick her up, take her to work. I think the last car he had was a [19]67 Plymouth. I remember this, it was white with a black top. [Inaudible 17:55] He had until he passed away. Believe it or not, I found one myself. I used to own a [19]67 Plymouth; my son is using it now. He drives it everywhere he goes.

T: That's wonderful.

L: Yeah.

T: So did you use the car when you were in high school?

L: No.

T: No, never.

L: No.

T: No.

L: I got my driver's license when I was a senior.

T: Okay. So how did you get to school and back and to games and back?

L: Either we walk, or catch a ride with somebody else. We didn't.

T: So, without a car, how does dating work, courtship?

L: I never dated!

T: You didn't date in high school?

L: No!

T: Why not?

L: Well, I'll take that back. When popular, you say, that's my girlfriend, but never really dated.

T: No.

L: No.

T: When was the first time that you really started dating?

L: Probably when I came out of the military in 1960, and I married in [19]62. So, I was just this sweet little thing. [Laughter]

T: Why didn't people date in high school? I can't imagine high school without that.

L: Some did, but I didn't. I didn't. I was a good kid. I was managed, but I was good. I didn't run around. Yeah.

T: So if you were a good kid and you didn't date, how would you describe kids that did date?

L: They were completely different. They was cutting school, they were running late at night and try to play sports that come up. They was always tired, and I was always running. [Laughter] What's wrong with you? Nothing; what's wrong with you? Man, I had a rough

date last night. I said, that's why. The drinking and probably smoking and cutting school. But they're trying to play sports and couldn't do it. I was just the opposite.

T: Interesting.

L: Yeah.

T: Okay. Once you're out of high school, what was your first car?

L: Believe it: my first car was a [19]57 Oldsmobile. Super it is. I bought that when I was living in New York. Yeah, that was my first car.

T: Was New York a shock to you? I mean, probably not, after the military.

L: After I came out of the military service, a friend of mine—we both came out about the same time—he bought a car here in Gloucester. He said, George, let's go to New York. I had family in New York, and we got in that [19]55 Chevrolet and we headed to New York. I stayed up there. I started working for the B&O Railroad, which was part-time work. My first son was born in [19]62. I worked for B&O Railroad until I got this other job and progressed in it to a plate maker. Pretty good. I stayed there until I decided to say, hey, time to get out of New York. So in [19]66 I packed up and came home. Been here ever since.

T: Okay. How did you meet your wife?

L: Ew. My first wife.

T: Oh, okay.

L: [Laughter] I'm sorry.

T: No, it's okay.

L: I met her when I was living in New York. She came up to visit her sister, which was living next door. She came up from South Carolina. Pretty little thing, and being next door, you sit on the porch and we all talk and talk and things. I met her and that's when I really started dating. We got married while I was up there, and I had one boy and a girl. We moved home. I packed up, said, let's get out of here in [19]66. We all moved here and she passed away in [19]71.

T: I'm sorry.

L: [Inaudible 23:00] We had three boys and a girl. She passed away when Vern was nine, my daughter was seven, my other son was five.

T: Wow. How did you-

L: I was working at Dow Chemical in Williamsburg. I said, now, what am I going to do now? I've got four babies. I said, time to make another decision. Fred Carter--I don't know if you know him or not?

T: Yeah, I interviewed him last week.

L: Okay, well, Fred was working for the sheriff's office then. He said, George, you want to become a deputy sheriff? I said, a what? I said, I thought about it. I said, this my chance to raise my family, be at home. So I left Dow and came to Gloucester County in [19]71 and started at the sheriff's office, and I raised them by myself until I remarried in [19]78, [19]79. I remarried then. Vern, the older boy, he was in high school and just playing

sports. I was running behind him trying to keep up, make sure he was doing all right. I remarried again in [19]84, had a baby girl. [Laughter]

T: Wonderful.

L: Indeed. We divorced, and then I remarried again in [19]91. My baby daughter, she's married. She married a young man that's in the Coast Guard. She called me last month, she says, Dad, I got good news and bad news. I said, what's that, Tiffany? Good news, Adam, he had made chief warrant officer. I said, well, what's the bad news? They were living in Columbia, Maryland, then. [Laughter] She said, the bad news, Dad, is that we gotta move to Portland, Oregon. [Laughter] So they arrived there last week after travelling for I think seven or eight days, just them two and the baby. The baby's two years old. We've been happy ever since. [Laughter]

T: Okay. What was your time as--Fred Carter told me you were the second black deputy sheriff?

L: That's correct.

T: What was your time there as a deputy sheriff like?

L: Just marvelous. During that time and when I started, I think it was three deputies and the sheriff or four deputies and the sheriff. We did everything. We did patrolling, we did some civil process, we did courtroom security, we did everything. The sheriff then was Sheriff Roland Smith. I worked under him until he passed away; then it was Sheriff Sinclair Rhodes. I worked with him until he lost in the election, and then I worked for Bill Gatlin. He lost the election Sheriff Stanaway. Under Bill Gatlin was when the jail was built. I think it was five years I didn't work for the sheriff's office but I was still under the

state retirement system, and I was the director for the local ASAP, which was Alcohol Safety Action Program. I was head director for the northern Middle Peninsula, covering all of the court systems. I named that program Tri-River ASAP and it's still Tri-River ASAP. And then I said, well, time to come back to the sheriff's office, and I did under Stanaway. I worked under Robert Stanaway until I decide, I said, time to retire after twenty-five years under the system. I started the business here. I renamed it Village Star Texaco, that and the car wash. Being retired, and then the overhead got so heavy here that I said, hey, time to get out of here. [Laughter] [Inaudible 28:54] It was real high. What it is that, I really wanted to redo this whole corner, but I couldn't get the finances that I needed to do it. They wouldn't let me tear it down and put a brand-new convenience store here because of the historic district. I'm glad I didn't now. I'm glad I couldn't do it, because this is a historic site. It just impresses me to know that it still stands, and you look back at the years that this thing's been here, and how the station really got started under J.C. Brown and where he bought the property and how he obtained the property. See, because all this was T.C. Walker's property. T.C. Walker sold this corner to J.C. Brown. Knowing little facts, it's just good to know that it's still standing and I didn't tear it down. [Laughter]

T: Yeah. Yeah. That's good to know. Now that we're on the topic of the gas station, do you know who put that there, the painted Texaco star?

L: One of my employees painted that.

T: Who is it, do you know? I was supposed to ask you.

L: His last name's Steele. I'm trying to think. Jack Steele painted that sign up there. He was my mechanic. [Laughter]

T: Oh, okay.

L: He said, George, look! I said, that's great! I don't say... [Laughter]

T: Yeah.

L: But yeah, Jack, I think he put his initials on it somewhere on there. J. S.

T: Yeah. I see it, it's underneath there. Yeah. When was that put there, do you remember?

L: During his tenure here; I don't know the exact date, but I know that he did it.

T: Okay, I was actually wondering, now that we're on the topic of the station, if you could maybe walk me around and show me what you put on the walls and what it looked like and stuff. Do you want to do that?

L: Yeah, if there's anything left. [Laughter]

T: Here, let's do it.

[BREAK IN INTERVIEW]

L: It was different. When I became a deputy, you know, I had very little or nothing to do with law enforcement. That was the least thing from my mind. You had to go to some classes, and they sent me to a law enforcement school. I completed that and I came back out and started being a deputy sheriff. It was a real good experience, because you get a chance to meet everybody. You see some horror stories about going out into the Guinea area and all that kind of good stuff. But you know one thing? [Laughter] I did not

hesitate going down there to serve papers or go through any type of arguments or anything of that nature. I've met so many nice people in Guinea. [Laughter] They would see me coming there, and they said, hey George! You want some crabs or anything? I just met a lot of good people there, and still do. It never--they always remember me for some reason. I don't know why. [Laughter] I used to tell guys during the day, I said, hey. When I hear of any type of family arguments down there in the Guinea area, when I get the call, and for me to respond, they said, there's a family disagreement down there in Guinea. You need to go down there. I said, okay. I go to Glens, wait till everything cool off down there in Guinea. Then I go down. I go down; everything, everybody's quiet. Common sense. [Laughter] But that was a marvelous experience and like I said, after retirement I look back at those days. I never had to use a gun. When I retired, I don't know where my gun was located. Never had no need for it. [Laughter] I figured if I can't talk my way through it, then...you have to use some common sense. When I retired, I became real better person. I'm a deacon in my church, and a faithful member. I belong to the most historical African-American church in Gloucester County.

T: Which one?

L: It's on the historical landmark in the state of Virginia- Zion Poplars, right here on T.C. Walker Road.

T: Okay.

L: Yep. That's the oldest African. In fact, we celebrated 147 years.

T: Yeah. That's great. Is that the church you've always gone to?

L: Yep. [Laughter]

T: Okay. So how did you decide to get a hold of this service station?

L: Well, I was operating the car wash, and I was renting it from Andy James. He came to me one day. He said, George, you want to purchase the station? I said, let me talk to my wife. We got back to him and I said, well, we can't get the money. He said, I will finance it for you. We'll owner finance it. I said, okay. So we did. We took a ten-year mortgage with him. We opened it up and we did real good, but a lot of turnover. I didn't make no money; I just turned over a lot of money. After five years of running this and the car wash, overhead got so bad with things breaking down and the price of gasoline and petroleum supplies and everything, I said, time to move. So, we sold it back to him. But, it was a lovely experience, being a business owner. It just got too much for us to continue on with it. And then, the old tanks had to be taken out of the ground during that time. We did all of that. We took the tanks out of the ground; we still couldn't the real financing that you needed to do something different. Plus, like I was saying before, we couldn't beautify the station, in a sense. In fact, we drew up some plans to turn this area into a convenience store. We presented it to the county, but still, a whole lot of work. That was that. I said, cut it loose.

T: What was your relationship like with Andy James?

L: Very good, very good. Andy and I, we became very, very, very good friends. When I went back to him to say, hey, I'm about to give it back to you, he didn't have no problem with that.

T: Oh, really?

L: Mm-hm.

T: Okay.

L: When he had his accident a few years ago on that tractor, man, I tell you, that was a hurting thing. He won the election to get back on the board of supervisors. He won that. I don't know how he was doing it, but he must be a strong man. Strong man.

T: Yeah. I imagine that taking the tanks out of the ground and cleaning them up would have been expensive.

L: Oh, yeah.

T: But that wasn't a problem?

L: No. I don't know who the company was that came and did the job, but there was a fund set aside by the state or the federal government—one of the two—to help folks to remove those tanks. So, it didn't cost me a whole lot of money to do it because that fund took care of most of it.

T: Okay.

L: Yep.

T: Okay. Good to know. So, during your tenure here, who came to the gas station? Who came to get their car serviced?

L: Who?

T: Who, yeah. Everybody?

L: Everybody.

T: Everybody.

L: They loved it.

T: Okay.

L: I used to...oil changes, get a free car wash. Stuff like that. It paid off, but like I said, the overhead was terrible.

T: How did you pick your employees?

L: Well, they came and submitted an application. Being law enforcement, and they all knew that, they say, well, if I come work you I better be clean. [Laughter] But my car wash people, I had, I think it was, four or five men and women. A lot of those was unemployables; they couldn't find a job anywhere else, so I took them under my wing and tried to help them. They worked out fine. I'd usually pay them by the day. Now to get back, we paid them at the end of the week. Being unemployed or unemployable, that really helped them a lot. Some of them maybe have a drinking problem, but they worked. But after work they head for the store. [Laughter]

T: So what about your mechanic, Jack Steele? What was your relationship like with him?

L: Very good. In fact, I saw him not too long ago. He works for Ken Housz now.

T: Oh, okay.

L: Yeah. He's down there and he's doing fine. I had more than one mechanic. I think I had about, at least, three others. Some good and some bad. [Laughter]

T: Yeah. What was your relationship like with your employees in general?

L: Very good. I always kept them happy and always smiling. I treat them good. I wouldn't quarrel with anybody.

T: Yeah. Absolutely. Do you feel like your experience was different in any being a black business owner?

L: Yes, believe it or not. [Laughter] My folks, black folks, they always wanted credit. I said, I can't give you credit. I'm pretty sure they needed it, but that'd mean another record that'd have to be taken to try to keep track of credit. Somehow, our folks--see, that happened years ago, when people used to give credit. It's fine if you've got a credit card, but if I have to keep a record of it--[Laughter]. That'd come up around. It's just like now, I do carwashes. I have very few black customers. Out of the hundred customers that I have, maybe five of those are black customers. I don't know whether they can't afford it or just feel that I'm doing too good. [Laughter] That's a hard statement. Yeah!

T: You took it there.

L: Yes. But I work hard. Real hard. [Laughter]

T: No, I'm really interested in what you're saying.

L: Yeah, yeah.

T: Do you feel like being a business owner separated you from the rest of the black community in any way?

L: No, no, no, because they see me progressing although I'm an old man. But the reason...And I treat everybody good, fair. I treat them good. If somebody, if there's a need for something, listen, I'll be the first one there to help them. That's no problem as far as that is concerned. There's always a few that would look at it a different way. I just keep smiling and enjoy life. [Laughter]

T: So you, at this point, have grandchildren. What do you want your grandchildren to know about Gloucester as you knew it?

L: Well, I'm trying to--especially the boys. I have grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. I try to let them know that you have to work. You just can't sit around doing a whole bunch of nothing and getting in trouble. To read at least some books about Gloucester County, go up to the library, go up here to the bookstore, and find everything you can about where we came from. Look ahead to where you're going. One of my grandsons, Trey, he's twenty years old now. He works down here at AutoMax. I tried to encourage him by giving him the three options: spiritually, mentally, and physically. I said, mentally, you get your head right. Physically, you get your body right. Spiritually, you get your religion right. Be spiritually motivated. That's sinking in a little teeny bit at a time, but you have to look at your past, especially if you're in the county because some day you might be some leader. You'll have to look back at where you might be going. The county here has a whole lot of history behind it, both black and white. It's just a point that you have to know it. Lawyer T.C. Walker, he was a--I didn't know him; I've vaguely seen him once or twice. But a lot of folks have told me about him. He said buy property. Not knowing him: buy property! I ain't got no money. Buy property! Now, I realize what he was telling people, because I look at my mother and dad. They bought property. Well, we can't buy nothing. They bought property and each one of their kids--my mother and father had five boys and three girls, and they gave all of us half-acre lots to put our homes on. And we did. There's property left over. But still, you look at family and how family act when there's something free. Ahhh! They're like little vultures. We, as family members now, are mothers and daddies that have children

and grandchildren. We have very little to give them. Sad to say, but it's true. You can't afford to buy the property now. Huh? [Laughter]

T: No, that's true. That's true. That's what Mr. Bartlett told me yesterday.

L: Who's that?

T: Orlando Bartlett? He's a real estate agent here.

L: Yeah, yeah. His daddy live up here in Ark.

T: Yeah, yeah, exactly.

L: Because I cleaned his van up the other day.

T: Oh, really?

L: [Laughter] Yeah, he just kind of sickly.

T: Yeah, he's nice. He said, get land, cause they're not making any more.

L: Yep.

T: Yeah, it's true. But I'm also wondering, from your perspective, what specifically is the history that you're trying to pass on to your grandchildren? What about your family history or Gloucester history specifically?

L: Ew. [Laughter] I'm trying to think. I know you said family history. I was looking at my daddy, for instance. From what I can gather, his fore-parents came out of the Bahamas and a little island called Cat Island to the east of the Bahamas Island. They migrated into Florida, and then came up the east coast. I don't know how the name was changed, for instance, from Larrimore to what it used to be. I don't know whether it was Larrimore

or Larrymore or Lawnmower, but it ended up being Larrimore. But his family moved up the east coast to James Store out here on 14. He met my mother, which was born and raised up in Ware. We're living now on Indian Road. That's where we all settled at now. My oldest brother is deceased; my next brother, he was living next door to me. Then he moved to Ocala, Florida. My other brother, he lives in Denby, and my youngest brother lives in Chesapeake. But we all come back to the home site three or four times a year, just to socialize and have fun. My sisters, they all live right there close to me in the old home spot. I just want to leave the history of where you came from all the way up till now. I guess the biggest thing right now is record keeping. We don't have any basic record, but my younger brother and I have been doing a whole lot of research on it. We don't have any written record of our history. We're the only family of Larrimores in the area, and I can't figure that out. [Laughter]

T: Yeah, that's strange.

L: Yeah. You've got the Browns, you've got the Smiths, you've got the Johnsons, you've got all the others. There's only one family of Larrimores. I was down in Myrtle Beach a few years ago, and I always browse through the telephone directory. There was a Larrimore down in the Myrtle Beach area; I called him. I talked to him. He said, yeah, I'm a pastor of a church down here. I said, Larrimore? In fact, his name was Robert Larrimore, and one of my brother's name is Robert. That was odd for that name to pop up like that. I take it back. There was a Larrimore here. He worked in Hudgins dealership down here. I went down, I said, Larrimore? And he was white. He couldn't give me no answer, and I couldn't give him no answers either. [Laughter] I always [inaudible 52:51]. That's been a few years ago now. Yeah, so, the family history is very

important, black and white, to know exactly where you come from and where you're going and where you've been. Main Street history is so unique. I was looking across the street where they're putting the medical building. They're tearing out, they'll pull out most half of that Edge Hill Shopping Center. Well, I know things are going to change, but that's a huge building. That'll take away a whole lot. I can't figure out how they got permission to even put that building in there. [Laughter] Ain't that something?

T: Yeah, it's strange. So, what is your vision for Gloucester's future? What do you want to see in like fifty years?

L: Well, my vision is, prayerfully, keep the village very close to the way it is now. I know there will never be any fast food stores here on Main Street. To preserve it as much as possible and let it be prosperous, because money will change things.

T: It's true, it's true. Do you see a role that historic preservation can play in that?

L: Certainly. As long as there's a record of what's being done and which way this thing's gonna go, preservation's gonna step in and preserve all of this good stuff.

T: Okay. Those are really all the questions I have, but I wanted to see if you had anything you wanted to share with everyone?

L: Listen, you have gotten it all.

T: Okay. [Laughter]

L: Good thing I had a good breakfast this morning. [Laughter]

T: All right.

L: I certainly appreciate it.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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